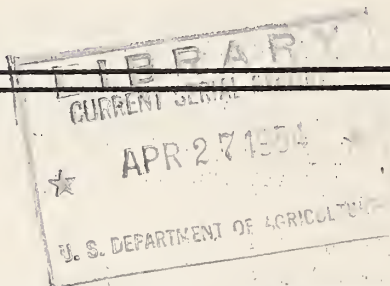


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 68

NUMBER 16

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

APRIL 19, 1954

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

F A S NOW PUBLISHING FOREIGN TRADE AND POLICY CIRCULARS

A new series of Foreign Agriculture Circulars, containing information relating primarily to international agricultural trade, and foreign agricultural trade and monetary policies affecting United States agricultural interests, is now being published by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

These Circulars are designed to provide useful information on economic developments in foreign countries and the agricultural production, import requirements and agricultural trade policies of those countries.

Publication of Circulars in the new foreign agricultural trade and policy series will be at irregular intervals and as frequent as possible. Two already have been published--Significance of Improvement in Foreign Exchange Reserves for U.S. Agricultural Trade (FTMP-1-54) and The Japanese Market for U.S. Agricultural Products (FTMP-2-54).

Some Circulars of the series will analyze the effect of international and monetary financial developments on the competitive position of United States farm products in the domestic and export markets. Those analyses will deal with changes in the dollar position in foreign countries, exchange controls, exchange rates, and in currency and payments agreements among foreign countries.

Distribution of the new series Circulars will be free upon request to persons in the United States by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. Should you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address on the enclosing envelope, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, FOURTH QUARTER AND ANNUAL, 1953 1/Fourth Quarter:

Over-all factory production of dairy products increased in the fourth quarter of 1953 in many of the important producing countries of the world compared with the corresponding quarter of 1952, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Butter, cheese and dried milk output showed substantial gains in this period, but canned milk production showed a slight drop below the 1952 level.

In the Southern Hemisphere, unfavorable conditions reduced milk production in the October-December quarter. Drought conditions prevailed in some of the more important dairying areas of Australia, while poor pasture growth and a shortage of satisfactory feeds curtailed milk production in New Zealand.

Mild weather in Western Europe was reflected in higher milk production in most countries in the fourth quarter.

Ample feed supplies and exceptionally favorable weather contributed to the increase in milk production in both Canada and the United States in the final quarter of 1953.

Butter production in factories in the fourth quarter of 1953 rose 7 percent above comparable 1952. Output was up in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Western Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. It was down in Australia, New Zealand and Norway. Production in Sweden was maintained at approximately the 1952 level.

Cheese output was 6 percent higher in the closing quarter of 1953 than in the same period a year ago. Production increased in Australia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, but decreased in Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Total canned milk (condensed and evaporated) production in the fourth quarter of 1953 was 6 percent below a year earlier. Of the 5 reporting countries, only the Netherlands and Canada indicated increased output in the final quarter.

Dried milk production, as reported by 7 countries, showed a more substantial gain than any other dairy product. Output for the October-December period increased in all reporting countries with the exception of Sweden and Canada.

Prospects for dairy production in the Southern Hemisphere appear to be unfavorable. In Australia, drought conditions prevailed in some important dairying areas, while in others, floods resulted in damage to dairy farms and loss of large numbers of cows. Dry weather over most of New Zealand reduced pasture growth and it is probable that lower dairy production will result.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

FACTORY DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries,
4th Quarter (Calendar) 1953, with comparisons

Country and Product	Average 1934-38 1,000 pounds	Average 1946-50 1,000 pounds	Total 1952 1,000 pounds	Total 1953 1,000 pounds	1953				Fourth Quarter 1953/52 Percent
					1st Quarter 1,000 pounds	2nd Quarter 1,000 pounds	3rd Quarter 1,000 pounds	4th Quarter 1,000 pounds	
BUTTER									
Canada	1/ 254,774	277,868	2/ 282,459	303,573	54,356	103,564	110,847	55,169	102
United States	1,673,328	1,301,830	1,188,170	1,424,940	258,141	447,555	354,460	291,380	113
Belgium	46,179	55,353	2/ 74,716	90,609	15,560	28,120	28,382	19,056	122
Denmark	400,660	318,697	2/ 340,170	381,175	73,413	112,214	105,601	84,656	115
Finland	61,287	61,215	5/ 99,700	106,352	17,521	31,797	32,258		128
France 6/	529,000	390,471	5/ 518,000	608,000					
Germany, Western	7/ 8/ 560,000	492,188	2/ 597,447	637,706	122,796	183,284	185,494	145,173	118
Ireland	89,400	68,648	2/ 73,808	78,774	12,194	26,324	34,366	15,116	124
Netherlands	201,000	155,620	2/ 162,479	182,984	35,935	58,422	56,440	37,920	106
Norway	24,930	20,049	2/ 22,707	28,702	3,342	4,874	8,158	3,227	97
Sweden	152,769	216,442	206,317	215,813	42,282	64,583	65,682	42,367	100
Switzerland 6/	57,760	36,949	9/ 49,163	52,469	8,486	15,776	15,189	10,712	126
United Kingdom	44,200	23,529	2/ 16,128	31,933	1,344	2,733	12,589	6,262	466
Argentina	65,742	100,657	102,580		33,069				
Union of So. Africa	10/ 27,725	44,845	2/ 62,391		16,151	15,345	12,841		
Australia	8/ 415,250	354,371	2/ 332,461	350,186	130,565	58,004	64,217	124,933	96
New Zealand-Total	8/ 366,912	346,095	2/ 435,052	432,049	179,760	42,919	81,917	167,415	93
Export Graddings	11/ 322,796	301,826	2/ 368,812	363,743	158,700	29,975	63,027	151,571	96
CHEESE									
Canada	1/ 119,924	114,329	2/ 67,818	75,185	12,420	6,382	28,671	13,433	108
United States	643,234	1,156,005	2/ 1,170,388	1,297,940	247,032	419,025	340,290	261,340	106
Denmark	68,820	123,634	2/ 187,391	192,021	35,935	64,595	52,911	33,289	93
France 12/	584,000	13/ 424,070	5/ 562,000	595,000					
Italy 12/	523,513	491,326	5/ 684,528						
Netherlands	200,000	176,926	2/ 77,919	283,060	52,821	97,631	85,457	58,021	110
Norway 14/	39,067	35,564	2/ 67,517	60,329	11,515	20,174	15,736	8,187	71
Sweden	76,059	115,005	132,221	119,714	22,751	38,567	35,127	18,864	83
Switzerland 14/	111,729	107,232	9/ 123,458	130,733	20,792	37,674	42,804	22,693	109
United Kingdom 6/	109,000	69,888	2/ 123,424	191,924	17,293	43,546	54,029	35,885	208
Argentina	67,873	203,830	224,131		77,161	70,547			
Union of So. Africa	10/ 10,195	17,967	21,384		5,930	5,092	5,400		
Australia	8/ 48,400	98,396	2/ 99,508	106,707	45,111	24,219	23,990	47,956	106
New Zealand-Total	8/ 210,911	216,842	2/ 225,167	245,406	102,436	77,928	37,318	104,848	102
Export Graddings	11/ 204,110	205,962	2/ 218,284	231,921	97,617	34,026	21,422	96,360	99

CANNED MILK

Canada	15/	104,335	266,532	337,423	305,297	45,367	42,524	114,227	93,589	54,957	121
United States	16/	1,970,189	3,170,576	2,894,120	2,598,510	556,381	543,950	907,885	668,300	478,375	86
Cuba	17/	32,564	36,555	51,240	-	18,900	12,348	14,280	-	-	-
Denmark		40,785	58,701	95,027	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	18/	28,953	57,984	198,414	-	112,032	94,044	136,306	119,807	134,355	120
Netherlands		309,952	181,222	499,106	484,512	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland		14,198	13,031	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom		378,560	219,914	255,136	289,426	27,687	46,681	170,509	45,427	26,809	97
Argentina	19/	3,159	11,914	2/	139,626	68,584	35,898	13,811	25,993	63,924	93
Australia	20/	41,894	132,745	158,963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	17/	11,273	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	17/	26,079	70,876	99,150	99,651	23,403	15,218	33,343	32,432	18,658	80
United States	18/	203,555	913,436	965,111	1,305,105	173,370	293,960	456,225	301,840	252,080	146
Belgium		5,500	6,607	21,932	34,622	2,539	4,594	14,780	10,503	4,745	187
Denmark		2,205	16,866	30,252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	18/	7,685	3,308	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands		56,438	54,468	109,625	118,050	12,112	10,722	46,330	39,673	21,325	176
Sweden		1,351	24,566	27,978	25,494	4,183	5,319	8,348	8,136	3,691	88
Switzerland		7,187	10,847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom		42,098	73,848	57,568	79,150	3,673	7,437	38,617	21,862	11,234	306
Argentina	19/	3,977	14,070	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	20/	16,971	54,235	70,481	83,877	35,398	24,248	7,972	15,186	36,471	103
New Zealand	21/	19,429	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Average 1935-39. 2/ Revised. 3/ Total production in 1952 estimated at 168,432,000 pounds, and in 1953 at 192,902,000 pounds. 4/ Average 1948-50. 5/ Estimated. 6/ Total production. 7/ Average 1935-38. 8/ Production year ending June 30. 9/ Annual production figures more complete than monthly figures used in quarterly data. 10/ Production year ending August 31. 11/ Marketing year ending July 31. 12/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. 13/ For 1948. 14/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of goats. 15/ Both bulk and case goods. 16/ Evaporated whole and condensed whole case goods only. (Estimates of production of bulk types discontinued). 17/ Less than a 5-year average. 18/ For 1937. 19/ For 1939. 20/ Total dried whole and dried skim milk for human consumption. 21/ For 1938.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U. S. Foreign Service reports, and other information.-April 5, 1954.

Milk and butter output in Denmark is somewhat higher than a year ago. In the United Kingdom, favorable conditions indicate continued high milk production.

With some increase in cow numbers and plentiful feed supplies, milk production in Canada should continue at a high level.

Annual

The year 1953 as a whole was a good one for dairy production in almost all of the major producing countries. Favorable weather conditions, larger dairy cow numbers, and in some countries, a higher yield per cow, were reflected in higher milk production. With more milk available for manufacturing, the over-all output of dairy products for the year ran well above 1952. --By Regina M. Murray, based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

MEDITERRANEAN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION ABUNDANT 1/

Olive oil production from 1953-crop olives in the Mediterranean Basin is expected to be abundant, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. A preliminary estimate places the output at 1,159,000 short tons compared with the revised estimate of 801,800 tons of oil from 1952-crop olives and the record high of 1,611,100 tons from the 1951 crop. 2/ These production estimates represent the total oil pressed including allowances made for consumption by growers in countries reporting only commercial production.

The 45 percent increase in oil production from the previous year is explained by the fact that 1953 was the year of high output in the two-year cycle normally characteristic of olive production and by the fact that weather conditions on the whole were more favorable than in 1952. Spain was an outstanding exception, however, to the generally favorable weather, as drought throughout the summer and early fall greatly reduced the size of the olive crop. Insect damage in general appears to have been less than in 1952 with the possible exceptions of Italy and Greece. Most countries except Greece have reported that the quality of the new oil is uniformly good.

An increased volume of oil production is in prospect in all Mediterranean countries this season except Turkey, Algeria, and Israel. The most significant expansion, however, is in Portugal, Greece, Italy and Tunisia where record or near-record crops have been reported. Normally Spain, Italy, Greece and Portugal account for 80 percent of the total Mediterranean production.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. 2/ This is 11,000 tons more than the early forecast published in Foreign Crops and Markets, December 14, 1953.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Estimated production in the Mediterranean Basin, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-1953

(Short tons)

Country	Average		1950	1951	1952	1953 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
EUROPE						
France.....	8,000:	7,000:	9,000:	13,000:	7,000:	12,000
Greece.....	131,500:	132,540:	42,000:	155,200:	77,000:	173,000
Italy.....	256,000:	189,800:	200,000:	390,000:	200,000:	300,000
Portugal.....	64,000:	67,460:	44,200:	117,000:	57,700:	150,000
Spain.....3/	357,400:	365,200:	200,000:	770,000:	300,000:	330,000
Yugoslavia.....3/	5,900:	4,020:	800:	3,200:	3,000:	4,000
MIDDLE EAST						
Israel.....4/	7,000:3/	2,500:	1,000:	200:	2,000:	1,500
Syria.....	{12,500:	14,900:	4,400:	5,500:	5,500:	6,500
Lebanon.....		10,800:	3,300:	11,000:	8,000:	11,000
Turkey.....	44,000:	38,000:	50,000:	40,000:	60,000:	30,000
AFRICA						
Algeria.....	20,000:	17,600:	20,500:	28,000:	29,000:	28,000
French Morocco....	10,300:	11,800:	11,000:	24,000:	13,000:	18,000
Tunisia.....	49,300:	42,300:	44,000:	50,000:	38,600:	90,000
Libya.....	2,600:	3,000:	8,500:	4,000:	1,000:	5,000
Total.....	968,500:	906,920:	638,700:	1,611,100:	801,800:	1,159,000

1/ Total oil pressed from olives grown in the years indicated; excludes oil extracted from residue. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of less than 5 years.

4/ Territory formerly known as Palestine.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

Spain's oil production is now estimated at 330,000 tons, or 10 percent more than the outturn from the 1952 crop. The olive harvest, however, was a disappointment because a large crop normally is expected to follow a low outturn and oil from the 1953 olives is less than one-half the output from 1951, the previous year of high production. Nevertheless, this volume of oil, together with a carry-over from last season of at least 100,000 tons, is expected to be sufficient to satisfy Spain's domestic requirements and to provide some 50,000 tons for export and carry-over.

Italy's olive oil output may approximate 300,000 tons, representing a 50 percent increase from last season. However, this tonnage would be almost one-fourth less than the record production of 1951.

Greece expects 173,000 tons of oil, the third largest volume of record. The decrease of roughly 10 percent from earlier expectations is attributed to heavy and late infestation of the olive fruit by the Dacus fly. As a result, the quality of the oil is generally below average.

Portugal anticipates a record outturn of 150,000 tons of oil or over two and one-half times the tonnage from the 1952 crop. The problems arising from this year's over-supply position will be enhanced by the increased availabilities in most other Mediterranean countries.

Total oil obtained from crushings in France is estimated at 12,000 tons or an increase of 70 percent from the previous year. Yugoslavia's outturn is believed to be up about one-third.

Oil production in the Middle East is down as a result of the sharp drop in Turkey where output is reported at one-half the previous season's tonnage. Syria and Lebanon appear to have the normal output of a "good" year.

North Africa likely has a near-record tonnage of olive oil, resulting largely from Tunisia's excellent output of an estimated 90,000 tons. This volume of production has been approached or exceeded in Tunisia only twice in the past 14 years. Production in Algeria is expected to be slightly less than last season. Output the past 3 years, however, has been relatively constant. French Morocco reports a large production and a better-than-average outturn is likely in Libya.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

COSTA RICA'S TRADE IN FATS AND OILS INCREASES

Costa Rica imported 5,277 short tons of fats and oils during 1953 compared with 4,983 tons in 1952, reports J. D. Dodge and F. Pena, American Embassy, San Jose. The bulk of the total--4,082 tons--consisted of hog lard, virtually all from the United States. Principal remaining imports consisted of: hydrogenated oils and greases--371 tons; vegetable cooking oils--222; soybean oil--178; vegetable lard--159; cottonseed oil--95; linseed oil--50; olive oil--39; cod liver oil--37; and castor oil--26 tons.

All of the hydrogenated oils and greases, vegetable cooking oils, cottonseed oil and soybean oil came from the United States. The bulk of the vegetable lard came from the United States and the Netherlands. Most of the linseed oil, castor oil, cod liver oil and olive oil came from the Netherlands, the United States, Norway, and Spain, respectively.

In contrast to only 5 tons in 1952, Costa Rica exported 592 tons of African palm oil last year--581 tons to the United States and 11 tons to Panama. Exports of oil-bearing seeds and nuts totaled 343 tons, shipped largely to Israel.

Costa Rica's total production of palm oil in 1953 was reported at 1,280 tons. Some 800 tons were sold domestically, principally to the local margarine factory.

Production of hog lard, all consumed locally, rose to 1,100 tons compared with 890 tons in 1952. The estimated 100 tons of coconut oil produced in 1953 was consumed by the local soap industry. Reliable estimates for production of other vegetable oils, made from sesame, cotton or peanuts, are not available.

(The following item is for immediate release)

CUBAN RICE SHIPMENTS TO BE RESUMED

The Cuban Government, under decree No. 688 has amended the March 13 decree No. 430, which permitted the entry of 600,000 quintals of rice into the Free Zone at Matanzas to be held there until permitted entry by the Cuban Department of Agriculture.

The new decree, retroactive to April 1, permits entry up to 600,000 quintals (about 608,000 bags of 100 pounds) at the low-duty rate for entry through any port for the period April 1 to June 30, 1954. This is in conformity with the agreement between the United States and Cuba on rice entered into in December 1952. The total low-duty quota for July 1953 to June 1954 now stands at 5,240,000 quintals (531,000 bags). It is expected that import permits for the new-duty quota will be issued by April 20. The new quota year begins July 1, 1954, and under terms of the agreement, a new quota will be issued by Cuba on or before that date.

(The foregoing item is for immediate release)

SWITZERLAND INCREASES RICE IMPORTS IN 1953

Rice imports into Switzerland in 1953 totaled 53,177,000 pounds compared with 25,664,000 pounds in the preceding year. Imports from the United States totaled 7,583,000 pounds, the largest quantity since 1950, when 13,120,000 pounds were imported from that country. Eighty-five percent of rice imports in 1953 were from Italy, and 14 percent were from the United States.

SWITZERLAND: Rice imports, averages 1936-45, annual 1946-53

Year	Italy	United States	Egypt	Brazil	Thailand	Other countries	Total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Average:							
1936-40							
Semi-milled.....	24,242	9	5,218	2,103	2,821	6,229	40,622
Milled.....	1,278	6,101	1,081	11	4,678	4,823	17,972
Total.....	26,520	6,110	6,299	2,114	7,499	10,052	58,594
1941-45							
Semi-milled.....	2,818	1	0	0	0	0	2,819
Milled.....	1,013	5,047	0	7,610	0	117	13,787
Total.....	3,831	5,048	0	7,610	0	117	16,606
1946							
Semi-milled.....	0	0	0	1/	0	0	1/
Milled.....	161	16	0	0	0	1	178
Total.....	161	16	0	1/	0	1	178
1947							
Semi-milled.....	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
Milled.....	1,604	4	1	16,260	0	3,065	20,934
Total.....	1,604	4	1	16,260	0	3,077	20,946
1948							
Semi-milled.....	2,753	0	13,130	0	0	1	15,884
Milled.....	853	114	8,161	8,415	1,798	2/ 12,622	31,963
Total.....	3,606	114	21,291	8,415	1,798	2/ 12,623	47,847
1949							
Semi-milled.....	20,497	0	357	0	0	1	20,855
Milled.....	12,444	7,807	6,466	2,063	3,935	1,462	34,177
Total.....	32,941	7,807	6,823	2,063	3,935	1,463	55,032
1950							
Semi-milled.....	48,224	0	0	2,170	0	195	50,589
Milled.....	44,677	13,120	567	43	634	2,323	61,364
Total.....	92,901	13,120	567	2,213	634	2,518	111,953
1951							
Semi-milled.....	11,285	0	0	2,199	0	0	13,484
Milled.....	12,632	5,454	0	0	841	542	19,469
Total.....	23,917	5,454	0	2,199	841	542	32,953
1952							
Semi-milled.....	11,411	66	0	0	0	43	11,520
Milled.....	12,134	1,883	0	1/	12	115	14,144
Total.....	23,545	1,949	0	1/	12	158	25,664
1953							
Semi-milled.....	26,165	113	0	0	0	0	26,278
Milled.....	18,941	7,470	0	0	486	2	26,899
Total.....	45,106	7,583	0	0	486	2	53,177

1/ Less than 500 pounds. 2/ Includes 9,143,000 pounds from Uruguay.

Source: Jahresstatistik des Aussenhandels der Schweiz.

COLOMBIA REQUIRES RICE IMPORTS IN 1954

Colombia probably will be a net importer of rice in 1954, even though it exported around 26,000 metric tons of rice last year. The 1953 crop, harvested principally in October, was substantially smaller than expected. Indications now are that approximately 200,000 metric tons of milled rice were produced in 1953, a reduction of 28,000 tons from the preceding season.

Late in 1953 Colombia had exported over 25,000 metric tons from the 1952 harvest, and official estimates placed the 1953 crop at an even higher level than in the year before. The price began to climb steadily, however, and by early 1954 it became necessary for the Government to import rice. Bids were accepted in January and around 2,500 metric tons of rice eventually were purchased from United States exporters, of which 1,500 metric tons were shipped in February.

Colombia's 1954 rice crop almost certainly will exceed that of last year. New areas are coming into production on additional irrigation projects. Nearly all the irrigable land in the Saldana project will be in production this year, and most of it is being devoted to rice. It is expected that weather conditions in Bolivar and Cordoba will improve this year, and that higher rice yields will result.

U.S. RICE EXPORTS

United States rice exports during the first half of the 1953-54 marketing season (August-July) totaled 9,472,000 bags (100 pounds) as compared with 9,835,000 bags in the corresponding period of the preceding year. More than 50 percent of the total was exported to Asia, despite the fact that shipments declined sharply to some countries of that Continent. Exports on the other hand, were larger to countries in the Western Hemisphere and Europe than in the corresponding period of the year before.

No significance is attached to the fact that rice exports in January 1954 of 1,893,000 bags were lower than 2,228,000 bags in the corresponding month of 1953, for the reason that in early 1953 rice was exported under allocation and price controls, whereas in 1954, export sales were entirely commercial transactions on a free market.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
January 1954, with comparisons 1/

Continent and country	August-July		August-January		January	
	1951-52	1952-53	1952-53	1953-54	1953	1954 ^{2/}
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada.....	443:	601:	356:	370:	34:	50
British Honduras.....	22:	3:	2:	2:	0:	0
British W. Indies.....	54:	81:	79:	3:	2:	0
Cuba.....	5,118:	4,876:	2,962:	3,508:	563:	427
Netherlands Antilles.....	25:	41:	21:	24:	3:	4
Venezuela.....	196:	86:	37:	129:	0:	30
Other countries.....	38:	15:	12:	21:	4:	1
Total.....	5,895:	5,703:	3,469:	4,057:	606:	512
Europe:						
Belgium & Luxembourg.....	57:	52:	34:	143:	4:	5
Greece.....	209:	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	5:	0:	0
Iceland.....	3:	8:	2:	<u>3/</u>	0:	0
Switzerland.....	21:	39:	27:	42:	4:	1
Other countries.....	1:	1:	3:	52:	1:	5
Total.....	291:	100:	66:	242:	9:	11
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia.....	91:	139:	67:	65:	18:	4
Ceylon.....	741:	647:	647:	0:	0:	0
Indonesia.....	1,799:	1,160:	800:	0:	511:	0
Philippines.....	71:	<u>3/</u>	0:	<u>3/</u>	0:	0
Korea.....	2,821: <u>4/</u>	4,631: <u>4/</u>	1,246:	590:	462:	0
Hong Kong.....	0:	179:	179:	0:	0:	0
Japan.....	5,430: <u>5/</u>	4,420: <u>5/</u>	2,851:	4,461:	619:	1,362
Ryukyu Islands.....	0:	616:	422:	0:	0:	0
Other countries.....	9:	4:	2:	42:	0:	0
Total.....	10,962:	11,736:	6,314:	5,158:	1,610:	1,366
Total Oceania.....	13:	19:	14:	11:	3:	1
Liberia.....	73:	22:	22:	0:	<u>3/</u>	0
Other Africa.....	4:	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	4:	<u>3/</u>	3
Total.....	17,239:	17,580:	9,885:	9,472:	2,223:	1,893

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 pounds. 4/ Adjusted to include all programs of the Department of Defense and the Foreign Operation Administration.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1954

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in February 1954, totaled 19.0 million pounds valued at \$11.9 million. These figures were about one-third below the preceeding month and 15 percent below February 1953.

Exports of U. S. unmanufactured tobacco, February
1954, January-February 1954 with comparisons

(Export Weight)

Type	: February : 1953	: February : 1954	: Jan.-Feb. : 1953	: Jan.-Feb. : 1954
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
Flue-cured.....	17,521	14,860	41,650	41,380
Burley.....	1,367	1,586	2,593	2,682
Virginia fire-cured.....	696	194	272	337
Dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee..	1,637	858	4,701	1,835
Maryland.....	435	435	1,218	849
Green River.....	163	47	258	286
One-Sucker.....	89	66	119	107
Cigar Wrapper.....	320	153	689	443
Cigar Binder.....	257	190	563	339
Cigar Filler.....	4	110	111	139
Other.....	421	550	782	1,041
Total	22,910	19,049	53,656	49,438
Declared value, million dollars	14.1	11.9	34.0	33.6

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco at 14.9 million pounds in February of this year were 15 percent below those for February 1953. Most other types showed even more substantial decreases, but exports of Burley and cigar filler were higher than a year earlier.

In the first two months of the current year total leaf tobacco exports were 8 percent below a year earlier. Exports of flue-cured and Burley were about the same in the two periods and those of Green River and cigar filler were up moderately.

Exports of fire-cured, Maryland, one-sucker and cigar wrapper and binder were off.

Exports of cigarettes, and smoking tobacco in bulk were lower in February 1954 and in January-February 1954 than in the like 1953 periods. Exports of cigars, cheroots and smoking tobacco in packages were higher. Exports of chewing tobacco and snuff were higher in February but lower in the two-month January-February period.

Exports of U. S. Tobacco Products, February, 1954 with Comparisons

Class of Products	February		Jan. - Feb.	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
Cigars and Cheroots				
(1,000 pieces)	301:	726:	524:	1,533
Cigarettes				
(1,000 pieces)	1,347,912:	1,182,762:	2,654,066:	2,456,954
Chewing tobacco and snuff				
(1,000 pounds)	110:	132:	240:	223
Smoking tobacco in packages				
(1,000 pounds)	34:	48:	63:	98
Smoking tobacco in bulk				
(1,000 pounds)	348:	202:	729:	253
Declared value million dollars ...	4.9:	4.6:	9.9:	9.6

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

U. S. MEAT EXPORTS TO CUBA DECLINE

Shipments of meat from the United States to Cuba declined sharply in 1953 from the high level of a year earlier. Most of the reduction from 1952 was accounted for by decreased shipments of pork, but there was also a sharp decline in beef exports, which fell from the unusually high volume reached in 1952.

Cuba is by far the largest importer of United States meat products. Exports to Cuba last year made up 18 percent of all meat and 28 percent of the pork shipped to all countries. United States exports of pork to Cuba in 1953, amounting to over 22 million pounds, were 36 percent less than the high level of 1952 but compared favorably with those of both 1950 and 1951. Cuban imports of pork are chiefly bacon and salt pork. The United States is the major source of Cuba's foreign supplies of pork.

Apparently hog slaughter in Cuba during the past winter slaughter season was not greatly different from a year earlier. Most of the hogs slaughtered are consumed as fresh pork, although one packer in Havana has increased production of luncheon meat and sausage from locally produced hogs. Production of pigs weighing 75 to 150 pounds for roast pig during the Christmas holiday season assumes large proportions.

Lush pastures, the continued enforcement of meatless Fridays, and reduced purchasing power contributed to make Cuban supplies of beef practically adequate in 1953. In early March a quantity of beef imported in 1953 still remained in freezers in addition to an accumulation of beef in storage from domestic production. Under current conditions it is anticipated that beef imports will remain small during the current year. Apparently there has been no significant change in cattle numbers in Cuba since 1952 and cattle slaughter in 1953 was estimated to be about as large as a year earlier.

Cuba obtains most of its supplies of fresh and salted beef in the United States. However, most of the jerked beef, which is by far the largest beef item imported, is shipped in from Uruguay, Honduras and Costa Rica. Imports of beef from the United States during 1953 amounted to only 63,000 pounds compared with 1,211,000 pounds in 1952.

United States exports of fresh and frozen lamb and mutton to Cuba increased substantially during 1953 although the total for the year was only 30,000 pounds. Exports of sausage, sausage ingredients and miscellaneous cured and canned meats in total during 1953 were slightly greater than in each of the preceeding two years. United States exports of those items amounted to 312,000 pounds in 1953.

United States: Exports of meat products to Cuba,
1935-39 average and annual 1949-53

Item	: Average: : 1935-39:	1949	: 1950	: 1951	: 1952	: 1953
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds
Beef and veal	16:	24:	29:	53:	1,211:	63
Pork, excluding lard:	5,450:	15,231:	22,283:	26,930:	34,872:	22,387
Mutton and lamb (except canned) ..	16:	9:	13:	12:	17:	30
Other ^{1/}	132:	1,273:	879:	267:	301:	312
Total	5,614:	16,537:	23,204:	27,262:	36,401:	22,792

^{1/} Includes fresh and canned sausage, cured sausage ingredients and other canned meats n.e.c.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

LIVESTOCK PRICES DECLINE SHARPLY IN AUSTRIA

Meat production in Austria increased moderately during 1953 due to a liquidation of livestock numbers and meat-animal prices dropped significantly. The Government introduced measures to stabilize meat-animal output and to support prices. Meat exports increased materially and imports declined.

The postwar rebuilding of herds was interrupted temporarily in 1951 because of a feed shortage. Livestock marketings were reduced and there was a general meat shortage in the summer and fall of 1951. By contrast, the concentrate feed supply in 1952 was the largest for any postwar year, with increased indigenous production and larger imports. Livestock marketings increased and there was considerable decline in prices for slaughter livestock in late 1952, even though the Government purchased and stored the surplus output. Marketings increased further in 1953 and output of meat reached such levels that for the first time since the close of the war surpluses appeared which could not be disposed of in the country if acceptable prices were to be maintained. Numbers of all classes of livestock on farms were reduced in 1953.

Actions taken by the Austrian Government to support prices have included limitations on imports, changes in exchange rates for foreign shipments, and partial freight refunds for cattle sold in foreign markets. The Government has the authority to invoke production controls on hogs but has not taken this action. Hog prices dipped to an unusually low level in early 1953 but have since recovered somewhat.

The parliament has passed a Livestock Fattening Act under which sugar beet growers are required to purchase and fatten for their own account or under contract a certain number of cattle on the basis of the tonnage of sugar beets delivered to the processing plants. Under this legislation distilleries are also required to fatten specified numbers of cattle. The purpose of this act is to reduce beef supplies in the fall when hog slaughter is seasonally large and to transfer local surplus cattle to areas where there are adequate supplies of beet tops, pulp, molasses and distillers slop. The fattened animals are marketed mostly in the late winter and early spring.

Exports of cattle from Austria during 1953 were chiefly to Italy and Western Germany. Shipments of beef were mostly to Italy and Denmark and pork was shipped mainly to Denmark, France and the Netherlands. A moderate amount of canned beef was also exported to Italy with smaller amounts going to other countries.

ANTI GOAT CAMPAIGN IN VENEZUELA

The Venezuelan government is proceeding with its anti-goat campaign in the interest of soil conservation and vegetative reforestation, according to James H. Kempton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Caracas.

The anti-goat program started on the Isla Margarita (about 200 miles east of Caracas) where all but 5,000 of 43,500 goats have been eliminated since January 1954. The campaign is now beginning in the State of Lara (about 150 miles west of Caracas) where the 1950 census counted 353,507 head. Some indications suggest that the Lara goat herd may be 5 times the above figure.

The Ministry of Agriculture now has a program underway on the Isla Margarita to reforest devastated slopes with seedling trees. A reforestation program is also planned for the State of Lara after successful completion of the anti-goat campaign.

The sharp decline in prices of goat skins which began last August contributed appreciably to the initiation of the vigorous campaign waged against the goat pests. In August, a dozen skins were worth \$14.40 but by November the price was \$5.40. In the past the production of goat skins in the State of Lara alone has averaged 36,000 monthly.

ECUADOR PURCHASES U. S. POULTRY BREEDING STOCK

The United States has developed the finest poultry breeding stock in the world. The importance of this is indicated by the interest foreign countries continue to demonstrate in wanting United States hatching eggs or baby chicks for improving their flocks.

Ecuador is a case in point. In an attempt to promote the growth of the Ecuadoran poultry industry, the Ministry of Economy has agreed to import 20,000 month-old chicks from the United States for the account of farmers and to that effect advertised in the local press that interested parties should place orders for not less than 10 females and 2 males and deposit the value thereof at the Coastal Growers' Association in Guayaquil. The delivered price was given at about \$0.60 per chick. Response from farmers exceeded expectations and by April 1 the goal was reached. As of March 10 they had ordered and paid for all together 16,520 chicks, as follows:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Plymouth Rock	879	4,505	5,384
Rhode Island	1,353	6,776	8,134
Wyandotte	501	2,501	3,002
	<u>2,733</u>	<u>13,782</u>	<u>16,520</u>

DANISH-BRITISH EGG AGREEMENT
TERMINATES JUNE 30, 1954

Since April 1, 1954 United Kingdom contracts for egg and poultry products with various countries of the world have been terminated except for Denmark. In the case of Denmark, according to L. I. Madson, American Embassy, Copenhagen, exports of eggs to the United Kingdom will take place in accordance with the Danish-British egg agreement, which went into effect on October 1, 1953.

The substance of the agreement was that two-thirds of the Danish export should go to the United Kingdom. The price during the period October 1 - December 30, 1953 remained unchanged, as compared to the preceding year, and the price from January 1 to October 1, 1954 should have been slightly lower than for the same period the year before.

Effective April 1, 1954 the British had completely lifted the requirement that imports from all countries should be handled by the Government except Denmark. Though by mutual understanding, an amendment to the Danish-British egg agreement was enacted recently. According to this amendment, the agreement will not be effective during the period July 1-October 1, 1954. Trade will then be freed and the price will be subject to free price formation. However, if the average export price in this summer period should go below the price fixed in the agreement, Denmark will only bear a small portion of the loss. Denmark will only gain a small part of the profit if the free price should go above the average export price.

COTTON HARVEST
IN PARAGUAY

Current harvest of the 1953-54 cotton crop in Paraguay is expected to yield about 60,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) of which approximately 46,000 bales will be available for export, according to C. P. Torrey, American Embassy, Asuncion. Production in 1952-53 totaled 53,000 bales with exports of 43,000 bales.

Harvested acreage this year is estimated at 160,000 acres, as compared with 130,000 in 1952-53. Consumption for the 7-month period August through February is estimated at 9,000 bales, a higher rate than the average of 1,000 bales a month in 1952-53. Approximately 700 bales of old-crop cotton remained in the hands of exporters on March 1, 1954, the beginning of the new crop year.

Government-established minimum prices for seed cotton to be paid to farmers for the 1953-54 crop were raised by \$20 per 10 kilos (6.05 cents a pound) to \$65 (19.65 cents), \$55 (16.63 cents), and \$45 (13.61 cents) for Grades 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

Valuation of cotton as a base for export subsidy

Grade	FOB Paraguayan ports		Minimum prices actually received c/ U.S. cents a pound
	Guaranies per metric ton a/	U.S. cents a pound b/	
1	9,104	27.53	30.94
2	8,946	27.05	30.44
3	8,739	26.58	29.94
4	8,474	25.62	28.94
5	8,152	24.67	27.94
6	7,843	23.71	26.94
7	4,026	12.17	14.97
8	4,026	12.17	14.97

a/ Rates in effect since March 1953.

b/ Converted at official rate of \$15 to \$1.00 which is equal to the subsidy.

c/ CIF or FOB Buenos Aires or Montevideo

A subsidy of 100 percent in the form of a special exchange rate (\$30 to \$1.00) is granted to cotton exporters, based on the valuations in Column 2 of the above table. In addition, any price received in the export market above these valuations may be converted at a higher free market rate of exchange. An exchange subsidy of 150 percent instead of 100 percent has been requested by exporters because of the increase in minimum prices that must be paid to farmers for seed cotton. When the prices paid to farmers (equal to nearly 60 cents a pound for lint) are deducted from the sum of export prices received and the subsidy (Column 3 of the table), it appears that profit margins of ginners and exporters are limited mainly to the value of the cottonseed remaining after ginning. Most of the cotton exported from Paraguay is Grade 3.

UGANDA INCREASES COTTON ACREAGE

The area under cotton cultivation in Uganda in the 1953-54 season is estimated at 1,512,000 acres, an increase of 3 percent over the 1952-53 acreage of 1,468,000, according to C. K. Bevilacqua, American Consulate General, Nairobi. Current estimates by trade sources now place the 1953-54 cotton production within a range of 312,000 to 320,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), which compares to production of 267,000 bales in 1952-53. Earlier official estimates of the 1953-54 crop were about 30,000 bales higher.

Principal destinations for Uganda cotton exports during the calendar year 1953 were: (in bales) India 170,000, United Kingdom 53,000, Germany 35,000, Hong Kong 13,000, and Japan 12,000. Stocks of cotton available in March with the reopening of the market were estimated at not more than 17,000 bales. (For discussion of cotton prices see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 12, 1954.) Consumption of cotton in Uganda and other British East African possessions is negligible.

ESTIMATE OF COTTON CROP IN CHINA

An unofficial estimate of the 1953-54 cotton crop in China places production at 3.3 million bales (500 pounds gross weight) and harvested acreage at 10.2 million acres, according to a report from A. L. Feaslee, American Consulate General, Hong Kong.

This is a considerable increase over estimates for the previous year of 2.8 million bales of cotton produced and 9.4 million acres harvested. The 1952-53 figures are believed to be too low and are being reviewed. An official Chinese newspaper in Peiping placed the 1953-54 cotton crop at 4 percent below that of the previous year but weather reports and other information available in Hong Kong do not indicate a decrease in 1953-54 for the country as a whole.

China's consumption of cotton for 1952-53 is estimated at 3.1 million bales. Export statistics of other countries indicate that imports into China during that year probably totaled around 200,000 bales, including about 61,000 bales from Egypt, 100,000 from Pakistan, and 25,000 from Burma.

WINTER WHEAT OUTLOOK GENERALLY FAVORABLE IN EUROPE

Winter wheat came through the winter in generally satisfactory condition in most areas of Europe, despite moderate to heavy winter-kill in some areas. However, a substantial part of the affected acreage is being re-seeded to spring wheat. Spring planting was delayed by unfavorable weather in some districts, but was making good progress at latest report. Moisture was good in most areas except in Western Germany, where dryness has impaired the crop outlook. Winter wheat usually constitutes 90 to 95 percent of Europe's total wheat acreage. Conditions in some of the principal producing countries are reported as follows:

Wheat acreage in France on February 1 was larger than the total winter and spring acreage harvested in 1953. In view of the large winter wheat acreage, spring seedings are expected to be less than in 1953, though re-seeding of winter damaged acreage is expected to be fairly extensive. Estimates of probable re-seeding have been as much as 250,000 acres. Prospects are mostly good, and another large crop is expected if the weather is favorable.

Moisture conditions are reported excellent in Italy, and the outlook for another large crop is generally good. Frost damage appears less than had been feared. Spring seeding is reported backward, but was progressing in early April.

Moisture deficiency has been causing some concern in Western Germany. The prolonged dry period was broken in March, with heavy rains in late March, but the prospects for the crop at that time were less promising than they were a year earlier. In addition to the handicap of the dry conditions, extensive frost damage appears to have been suffered in sections.

Conditions in Spain are generally satisfactory though some parts needed moisture in mid-March. Snows and rainfall since that time have been beneficial, but it appeared that moisture reserves were still deficient.

Fall-sown wheat in the United Kingdom looked well, generally, at the beginning of April, though it was rather backward in some areas. Wet conditions delayed spring work on the land except in regions of lighter soils. More favorable weather early in April favored seeding, which was progressing rapidly, at latest report.

Winter wheat acreage in Austria shows some increase over the 1953 acreage. The condition of the winter crop appears favorable. Spring seeding, however, was reported still backward in early April.

Winter wheat was seeded in Belgium under ideal weather conditions, and the current acreage is well above that of recent years. The condition of the crop was reported slightly above average in early April.

Wheat acreage in Yugoslavia is expected to be 5 to 10 percent below the 1953 area, because of a prolonged drought last fall and the sudden onset of cold weather, which curtailed seeding. In addition to the above factors, recent agrarian reforms may have disrupted fall work to some extent. On some acreages wheat failed to germinate and will have to be re-seeded. Some winter-kill may also contribute to reduced acreage.

Reports indicate that winter crops in Hungary have suffered from drought. Substantial winter damage was also reported. Spring seeding there is said to be running behind schedule.

Exceptionally dry fall weather in Turkey prevented seeding the full acreage intended, and retarded germination. Prospects for the 1954 crop are not entirely favorable, and the harvest is expected to be somewhat below the record 1953 outturn.

Winter wheat in the United States is forecast at about 670 million bushels, 200 million bushels less than the 1953 production and 19 percent below average. The current forecast is based on an appraisal of the April 1 condition of wheat as reported by individual growers, and on soil moisture reserves and other factors affecting crop production. Total abandonment and diversion to uses other than grain is indicated at 9 million acres, 19 percent of the total acreage seeded for all purposes last fall. Last year 10 million acres or 18 percent of total seedings to winter wheat were lost or diverted.

NORWAY HAS RECORD CATCH OF WHALES

The Antarctic whaling season closed on March 18 with a record catch for the Norwegian expeditions, reports William G. Vale, American Embassy, Oslo. The 9 Norwegian factory ships rendered a total of 960,000 barrels ^{1/} of oil which was approximately 200,000 barrels more than processed in the 1952-53 season. To these figures must be added the production of the land based station at Husvik Harbour, South Georgia, which amounted to 173,000 barrels. The season's total, therefore, is about 1,133,000 barrels.

Factory-ship production of whale oil totaled 929,077 barrels, an increase of one-fourth from last year's output. Sperm oil production at 31,135 barrels was also greater than last year when the outturn was 27,387 barrels.

The technological progress in the hunting, killing and processing of the whales is responsible for the increase in the production of oils. The very careful studies made of the migration and feeding habits of these mammals by international scientists, mostly Norwegian, have greatly aided the expeditions in locating the whales in the prime of their development. Although the international quota was reduced from 16,000 blue-whale units to 15,500 units this season, the actual "take" of oil was considerably more than last year. The days of hunting were also less this year than last year but the average weight and quantities of fat of the individual animals were greater than previous years.

Modern electronic devices are now employed to locate the schools and low-flying helicopters are widely used to spot the singletons. The latest gunnery methods reduce the possibility of missing the shot to almost nil, and the fast up-to-date killer-boats permit ranging and hunting over huge areas. The factory ships of today carry aboard the finest and most modern equipment and the efficiency is of a remarkably high standard.

There is another factor which contributes greatly to the advantages of the Norwegian expeditions, to wit, the manning of the ships. Whaling has long been a traditional occupation of the men from Tonsberg, Sandefjord and Larvik and great pride is taken by these sailors in their profession. They are all thoroughly experienced and combine the best of seamanship with enterprise and ingenuity. The wages are high (all members of the crew participate in the proceeds of the catch), living conditions are good and morale is very high. Although the work is extremely hard and frequently very dangerous there exists among whalers an esprit de corps probably not evident in any other industry in Norway.

^{1/} One barrel contains 373.3 pounds of oil. Six barrels contain one long ton (2,240 pounds) of oil, whereas 5.357 barrels contain one short ton (2,000 pounds).

MEDITERRANEAN OLIVE OIL
CONFERENCE HELD IN MADRID

Most of the 9 items on the agenda of the recent 3-day Mediterranean Intergovernmental Olive Oil Conference were adopted, according to Agricultural Attache Burl Stugard, American Embassy, Madrid, Spain, who served as observer for the United States.

The Conference, held in Madrid March 22-25, opened with a discussion of proposed changes of olive oil classifications and contracts for all producing countries. The main point of discussion centered on the use of refined olive oils of second quality for mixing with virgin oils for export. The Italian delegates were insistant on this change in the classifications because they considered it of primary importance to Italy's export position. After 3 days of debate, mainly on this question, the report of the Special Committee of Olive Oil Classification experts, incorporating this point, was adopted by the Conference. This was considered by the Conference delegates as a major achievement.

At the final session of the Conference on March 25, the following items of the agenda were approved:

1. The new olive oil classifications for all participating countries.
2. A standard contract incorporating the olive oil classifications.
3. A standard label for use by all participating countries.
4. That it was necessary to increase olive production to meet the consumption demands of an ever-increasing population.
5. That the next conference be held in Rome under sponsorship of the Commodity Section of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

While the Conference recommended the above items, final approval from the respective governments must be obtained. Therefore, the delegates and observers were requested to submit these points for approval by their governments so that a final vote could be taken at the next Conference.

The Conference passed a resolution agreeing on the necessity of creating Mediterranean monetary and olive oil pools and, in principal, the constituting of an arbitration tribunal to regulate olive oil transactions. However, most representatives of the active participating countries were of the opinion that these would not be accomplished soon. An advertising item on the agenda will also be discussed more fully at the Conference in Rome, June 1954.

Sponsored by Spain, the Conference was attended by representatives from the following participating countries: Egypt, France, Greece, Lebanon, Italy, Syria, Turkey and Spain. In addition, there were observers from Portugal, Panama, Belgium, Jordan, Norway, United States, International Oil Culture Federation (FIO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

ORCHARD GRASS SEED SUPPLIES
STILL LIBERAL IN DENMARK

Supplies of orchard grass seed in Denmark are still liberal, even though the country has exported over 6,250,000 pounds during the period from July 1, 1953 through February 1, 1954. Unless late season sales reduce the stocks, between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 pounds will be carried over into the new-crop season beginning July 1, 1954. This is about double the carry-over as of the same date a year earlier.

As of February 1, the Danish wholesale market prices were reported to be firm at \$17.10 to \$17.40 per 100 pounds.

L A T E N E W S

Canadians are much concerned about large supplies of potatoes in the United States, according to recent reports from Ottawa. Large supplies and exceptionally low prices in the United States are depressing Canadian prices, according to the report. A few months ago the situation was the opposite; United States potato producers were concerned about Canadian potatoes.

There is belief in Canada that potato prices there are much lower than supplies in the country would justify. There is feeling that prices are depressed by the presence of large potato supplies and exceptionally low prices across the border in the United States and the lack of Canadian import duty on late potatoes.

It is reported that March 1 potato stocks held in the two leading potato provinces of Canada were only 3.5 percent larger than a year ago when prices were about double this year's level. Also, Canadian potato production in 1953 was estimated at 66.4 million bushels which was near the 1935-39 average and near the 1945-49 average. It was 6 million bushels larger than the Canadian production in 1952.

Potato stocks in Western Canada, Vancouver Island and the nearby mainland of British Columbia, on March 1 were more than double the stocks of a year ago. Some rumors indicate that growers in that area fear that imports from the Washington area of the United States will interfere with sale of the local Canadian stocks.

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The Government of Pakistan has decided to permit private barter of old-crop cotton against import of essential items such as iron and steel, cotton yarn, artificial silk yarn, and newsprint, according to an official press notice on April 2, 1954. Each barter contract will be subject to Government approval, and a committee of experts will certify that the cotton is from old crops.

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Exports of cotton from the United States in February amounted to 401,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight (385,000 running bales), making an August 1953-February 1954 total of 1,994,000 bales (1,910,000 running bales). Principal destinations included in the 7-month total were Japan 499,000, France 259,000, the United Kingdom 213,000, Western Germany 189,000, Italy 156,000, Canada 119,000, Spain 90,000, Formosa 63,000, Korea 57,000, India 54,000, the Netherlands 52,000, Belgium 29,000, Austria 28,000, Sweden 24,000, and Yugoslavia 21,000.

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Imports of cotton into the United States in February 1954 amounted to 13,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), making an August-February total of 76,000. The latter total includes 31,000 from Egypt, 16,000 from Mexico, 14,000 from India, 7,000 from Peru, 3,000 each from Pakistan and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and 2,000 from Brazil.

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Exports of cotton linters from the United States in February (mostly chemical grades) amounted to 37,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), making an August-February total of 129,000 bales (107,000 running bales). Principal destinations during the August-February period were Western Germany 48,000, France 25,000, Japan 19,000, the United Kingdom 17,000, Canada 10,000, and the Netherlands 7,000.

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Imports of cotton linters into the United States in February amounted to 10,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), making a total of 121,000 for August-February. The principal sources included in the latter figure are Mexico 65,000 bales, Brazil 27,000, the Soviet Union 16,000, and 3,000 each from Western Germany, Paraguay, and Peru.

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The latest cotton progress report for the 1953-54 season in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, published by the Ministry of Agriculture on March 29, estimates a crop of 398,000 bales (500 pounds gross) from 652,000 acres, which represents a 3-percent increase over the 386,000 bales from 620,000 acres in the 1952-53 season.

